

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A load carrier equipped with a system of fixing to a rear part of a vehicle comprising:

a longitudinal arm, one end of which is configured to co-operate with a sleeve solidly connected to an element of a structure of the vehicle;

a lever, one end of which is mounted to rotate, with respect to the arm, on a transverse pin carried by the end of the arm;

return means incorporated between the lever and the arm, exerting a force direction is shown by an arrow;

means for locking the fixing system;

wherein the locking means includes a handle with a gripping part and a part forming a cam mounted such that, with respect to the lever, it can rotate on a transverse pin carried by the free end of the lever, between:

an unlocked state, in which movement of the handle around the pin is free between a position in which it abuts against the free end of the lever and a position in which a leading point of the surface of the cam is in contact with the arm, and

a locked state, in which movement of the handle around the pin and co-operation of the handle with the arm cause the lever to rotate on the pin in a clockwise direction as far as a locked end position of the lever, at which the lever, under stress, is solidly connected to the sleeve.

Claim 12 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein a groove contrived in the surface of the cam is guided along the arm.

Claim 13 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 12, wherein the groove and the arm are of complementary shape.

Claim 14 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the leading point is a point of the surface of the cam furthest away from the pin.

Claim 15 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein a distance between the pin and the point of the cam is greater than a distance corresponding to a distance between the pin and the arm, when the lever is in a locked end position.

Claim 16 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein, when locking the handle, the distance between the pin and the arm increases after the leading point has been passed.

Claim 17 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pin of the handle is mounted in translation within a slot contrived in sides of the lever such that the distance between the pin and the pin can be made to vary.

Claim 18 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for locking the pin inside the slot.

Claim 19 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a lock to solidly connect the handle to the free end of the lever extending beneath the gripping part.

Claim 20 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, further comprising ratchet means for solidly connecting the handle to the free end of the lever extending beneath the gripping part.